

In the United States Court of Federal Claims
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS
No. 21-1814V

WANDA I. RODRIGUEZ,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: July 19, 2023

Brittany S. Cates, Faxon Law Group, New Haven, CT, for Petitioner.

Voris Edward Johnson, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES¹

On September 7, 2021 Wanda I. Rodriguez (“Petitioner”) filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*² (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that she suffered a left shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”), a defined Table injury or, in the alternative caused-in-fact or significant aggravation injury, after receiving an influenza (“flu”) vaccine on January 18, 2019. Petition at 1, ¶¶ 2, 11. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On July 19, 2023, I issued a ruling on entitlement, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for her SIRVA injury. In this case, Respondent filed a combined Rule 4(c) Report and Proffer on award of compensation (“Rule 4(c) Report and Proffer”) indicating Petitioner should be awarded \$154,334.39, representing compensation in the amounts of \$130,000.00 for pain and suffering and \$24,334.39 for past unreimbursable expenses.

¹ Because this Decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action taken in this case, it must be made publicly accessible and will be posted on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, and/or at <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/uscourts/national/cofc>, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2018) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). **This means the Decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), Petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

² National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all section references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2018).

Rule 4(c) Report and Proffer at 4-5. Respondent represented that Petitioner agrees with the proffered award. *Id.* Based on the record as a whole, I find that Petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Rule 4(c) Report and Proffer.

Pursuant to the terms stated in combined Rule 4(c) Report and Proffer,³ **I award Petitioner a lump sum payment of \$154,334.39, representing compensation in the amounts of \$130,000.00 for pain and suffering and \$24,334.39 for actual unreimbursable expenses in the form of a check payable to Petitioner.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under Section 15(a).

The Clerk of Court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.⁴

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Brian H. Corcoran

Brian H. Corcoran
Chief Special Master

³ Because the Rule 4(c) Report and Proffer contains detailed medical information, it will not be filed as an attachment to this Decision.

⁴ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.